

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A monocellular or multicellular microorganism for the biotechnological production of riboflavin, which exhibits an activity of an NAD(P)H-forming enzyme which is higher than that of a wild type of the species *Ashbya gossypii* ATCC 10895.
2. (currently amended) A ~~monocellular or multicellular microorganism as claimed in claim 1, which~~ process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microorganism exhibits an elevated isocitrate dehydrogenase activity.
3. (currently amended) A ~~monocellular or multicellular microorganism as claimed in claim 1, which~~ process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microorganism is a fungus.
4. (currently amended) A ~~monocellular or multicellular microorganism as claimed in claim 1, which~~ process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microorganism is a fungus from the genus *Ashbya*.
5. (currently amended) A ~~monocellular or multicellular microorganism as claimed in claim 1, which~~ process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microorganism is a fungus from the genus *Ashbya gossypii*.
6. (original) An isocitrate dehydrogenase gene having a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence given in Fig. 11 (SEQ ID No.2) and its allelic variations.
7. (original) An isocitrate dehydrogenase gene as claimed in claim 6 having the nucleotide sequence 1 to 1262 as depicted in Fig. 11 (SEQ ID No.1).
8. (previously presented) An isocitrate dehydrogenase gene as claimed in claim 6

- having an upstream promoter which possesses the nucleotide sequence from -661 to -1 as depicted in Fig. 11 (SEQ ID No.1).
9. (previously presented) A gene structure which contains an isocitrate dehydrogenase gene as claimed in claim 6 and also regulatory sequences which are operatively linked to this gene.
  10. (previously presented) A vector which contains an isocitrate dehydrogenase gene as claimed in claim 6 or a gene structure which contains an isocitrate dehydrogenase gene.
  11. (currently amended) A ~~genetically altered microorganism for the biotechnological production of riboflavin, harboring, process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microorganism harbors~~ in replicatable form, an isocitrate dehydrogenase gene ~~as claimed in claim 6~~ having a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence given in Fig. 11 (SEQ ID No.2) or an allelic variation which is more strongly expressed than in the corresponding microorganism which is not genetically altered and/or whose copy number is increased.
  12. (currently amended) A ~~genetically altered microorganism as claimed in claim 11 which process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microorganism harbors a~~ gene structure which contains an isocitrate dehydrogenase gene having a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence given in Fig. 11 (SEQ ID No.2) or an allelic variation or a vector which contains such an isocitrate dehydrogenase gene.
  13. (currently amended) A ~~genetically altered microorganism as claimed in claim 11 which process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microorganism harbors an~~

isocitrate dehydrogenase gene which exhibits a catalytic activity which is increased, and/or an ability to be inhibited by inhibitors which is decreased, as compared with that of the corresponding microorganism which is not genetically altered.

14. (currently amended) A process for the biotechnological production of riboflavin, which comprises using a microorganism ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ which exhibits an activity of an NAD(P)H-forming enzyme which is higher than that of a wild type of the species Ashbya gossypii ATCC 10895.
15. (currently amended) A process for ~~preparing a riboflavin-producing monocellular or multicellular organism~~ as claimed in claim 14, which comprises further comprising using recombinant methods to increase the activity of an NAD(P)H-forming enzyme of the microorganism in comparison to that of a wild type of the species Ashbya gossypii ATCC 10895.
16. (original) A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the increase in enzyme activity is achieved by replacing the promoter and/or increasing the gene copy number.
17. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the enzyme activity is increased as a result of the catalytic activity of the isocitrate dehydrogenase being increased and/or the ability of the isocitrate dehydrogenase to be inhibited by inhibitors being decreased.
18. (canceled)
19. (previously presented) A process for preparing a microorganism for the biotechnological production of riboflavin, said process comprising using the

isocitrate dehydrogenase gene as claimed in claim 6.

20. (previously presented) A process for preparing a microorganism for the biotechnological production of riboflavin, said process comprising using a gene structure or vector which contains an isocitrate dehydrogenase gene as claimed in claim 6.